



# WHEN DOES CHILDHOOD END?



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## University Students to Claim Half Fare Privilege in Omaha

The dictionary says:  
"Child, n., pl. children."  
"A son or a daughter; male or female descendant, in the first degree; the immediate progeny of parents; applied to the human race, and chiefly to a person when young. In law, a legitimate son or daughter."

Because the dictionary says such is the case the City Attorney of Omaha, the Omaha City Commission, the Omaha Street Railway Company, the Police Judge, students of Creighton University, Omaha, and men of middle age going to the night school are all wondering who has the right to ride on the street cars of Omaha on a half-fare ticket.

The students of Creighton University claimed the right first. They did it after reading the city ordinance which provides that the street railway company shall sell at certain reduced rates tickets good for the transportation of "children attending school."

A band of the students boarded a street car and offered tickets at the reduced rates, which amounted to half fares. The conductor refused to accept the tickets and told them to get off. They refused to get off and the conductor was not big enough to put them off. At the university grounds they got off of their own accord and went their way. Other students tried the same thing with the same result.

The president of the street car company called the president of the university over the telephone and told him of the "lawless" students. "Come hither," said the ring lead-

manner, "but you fellows have carried this joke too far. I will have to take drastic action if you do not pay the full fare. Now you have had your fun and you ought to let it go at that."

"But the law is on our side," said a 6-foot senior, 25 years old. **SUPERINTENDENT READS DICTIONARY AND WONDERS.**

The superintendent was invited to read the dictionary. He did so, and he, too, began to wonder what he was to do.

"But you are not children," he protested.

"We come under every one of those heads," said the spokesman. "We are descendants in the first degree. We are immediate progeny of our parents. We are of the human race and we are young. Furthermore we are legitimate sons."

The interview ended with the case still undecided. Had the matter ended there things would have not been so bad, but a student in a night school, 45 years old, decided he, too, was young and going to school. He demanded the right to ride on half fare when he heard what the Creighton students had done. The thing became an epidemic. The street car company is helpless and is demanding a legal decision to settle the case. If the case goes against them a new city ordinance will have to be drawn up.

The question of childhood days has long been a disputed one in various countries. In European countries now the days of childhood are being shortened to make provision for the enlistment of



CHILDREN of all classes from the pre-kindergarten stage to the college student type.

shown in our Civil War. Two weeks ago this was brought forcibly to my mind at Gettysburg, in a speech made by Gen. John S. Wadsworth, during the dedication of the New York State monument. In the group about the monument were thirty-five veterans of the Fourteenth New York. Most of these men must have been mere boys when they fought—they are not old enough now to have been adults in the sixties.

"General Wadsworth told of an incident at Culp's Hill, one of the bloodiest spots on the battlefield, to illustrate the part played by boys. He told of a company of the Fourteenth New York, composed almost entirely of youths who seemed scarcely out of their teens, commanded by a captain who did not look over 20. He was pale with nervousness and apprehension, and General Wadsworth said that he wondered how that group of youths would behave under the grueling fire into which they were to be sent. The Union force was having a hard time near Culp's Hill, and these boys were ordered to relieve them. When the order came there was no hesitancy. The pale young captain waved his sword and gave the order, 'Forward.' The company swept into the thick of the fight, and gave a splendid account of itself.

"So much for the fighting ability of boys," continued General Kline. "It is just this youthful enthusiasm that the Young Guard seeks to guide in the right direction. A force of trained boys will give the United States a force of potential soldiers forever that will be our best form of peace insurance. Such a force will also serve as a preliminary step for many of its members into the State Militia. The cadet corps that used to be attached to many of the regiments developed many youths who became splendid officers in later years; but the cadet corps was not broad enough in its purpose, and lacked a strong central organization. The Young Guard will have everything that they lacked and the additional advantage of instruction by men who have served in the regular army.

For many years General Kline commanded the famous Fourteenth New York, a regiment with a long and honorable war record. He served through the Spanish war, and has the enviable record of bay-

ing passed through every grade of the State Militia service, from private to Brigadier General.

Major Physic, who has charge of the details of the work, has a long experience in the military training of boys. After his resignation from the regular army he became military commandant of the Hill School at Pottsdam, Pa., and has later held the same position at the Mount Pleasant Military Academy in New York State. He was given the rank of Major in Pennsylvania, and at present holds a staff position with the New York State troops.

"General Wood is kindly disposed to the Young Guard, because it will be an exceedingly valuable adjunct to his student training camps," said Major Physic. "Of course, it is impossible for most men and boys to attend the student camps, which are held for five weeks every summer. From these camps General Wood hopes to obtain a reserve of well-educated young men, who might serve as volunteer officers. Officers of the regular army believe that the Young Guard would serve as a valuable training school for boys who might act as non-commissioned officers in volunteers after they reached manhood. Of course, young men with proper educational qualifications could enter the student camps and take the course leading to a commission later. But, after all, the student camps can only provide officers, while the Young Guard will help fill up the ranks. What we need in this country is a large body of young citizens who are trained marksmen, and the best way to teach a man to shoot is to catch him young and

keep him at it. Get him interested. There is no more fascinating sport in the world than rifle shooting practice, and every boy is enthusiastic about it. For this reason we shall lay special stress upon actual work with the gun. Half of every drill period will be spent on the range. If we can only teach our young men to shoot straight, the rest of the problem of defense will be immeasurably simplified.

"There is a strong sentiment in this country against everything that savors of militarism—so strong that we have been especially careful to eliminate all suggestion of fuss and feathers from the Young Guard. The boys will not wear any uniforms except, perhaps, jumper suits when in camp to protect their clothes. However, they will be provided with all the other equipment of the soldier.

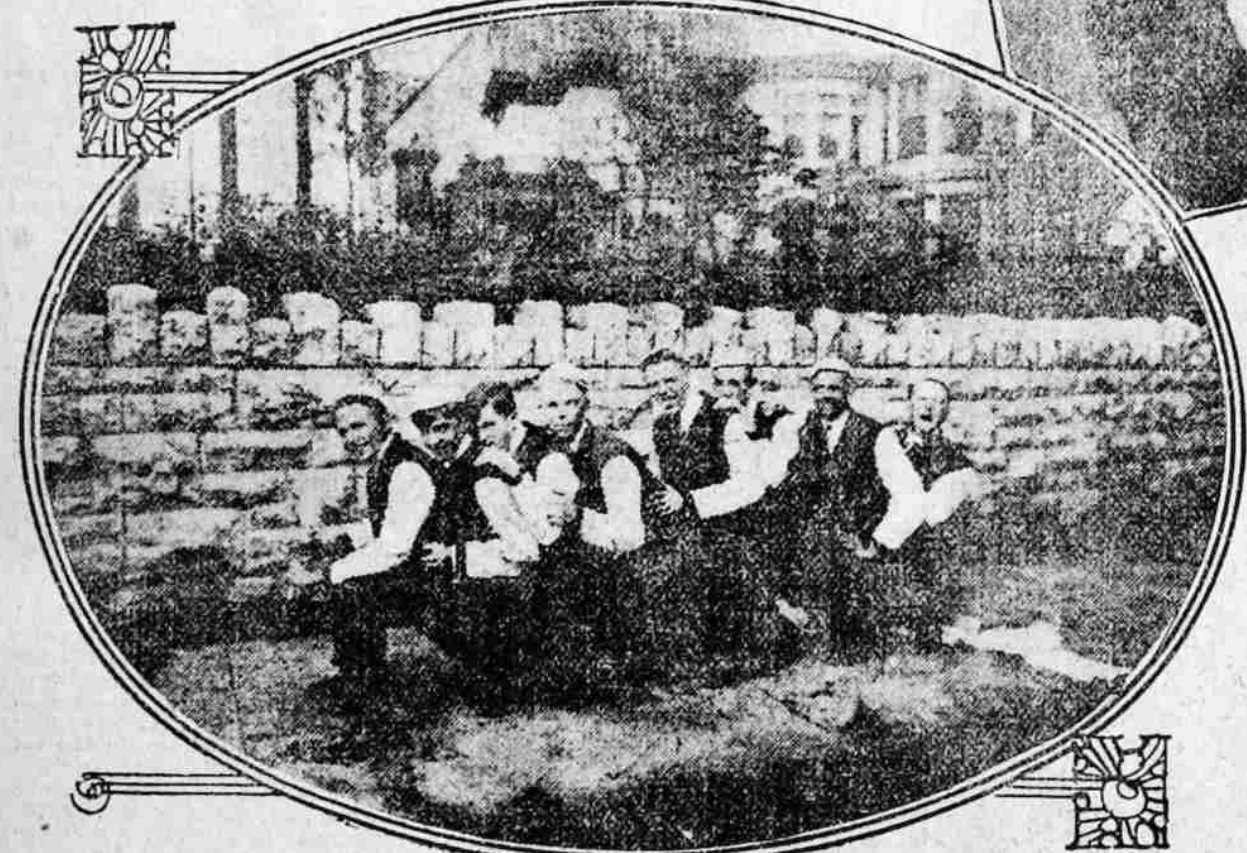
"Among the younger boys special stress will be laid on setting up exercises and other physical training. We shall try to get them to form the habit of exercising regularly at home. We want to make the weak

the rounds of the marine world. There was no violation of the neutrality of this country and the two boats were taken away when a United States cruiser, the Milwaukee, was standing guard. The work showed the mobility of the submarine and how resourceful it can be.

Two submarines were built early this year at Seattle for the Chilean Government. The first trial was made about July 26 and the representatives of Chile found fault because they failed by a half knot to show contract speed. While the Chileans were faultfinding, representatives of the British Government from Victoria, B. C., visited the yards and made an offer to buy the submarines at a big price if seaworthiness was proved.

At that time the war clouds were heavy. The United States cruiser Milwaukee was anchored off the yard and those on board had instructions to stop any attempt that might be made to take the two submarines out of the yard and the country.

August 1, war was declared be-



er of the students. Peruse the ordinance. Is it not written therein that children shall ride for certain reduced fares, which are otherwise designated as half fares?"

"Quite true," replied the president. "Are we not attending school?" asked the spokesman.

"True, indeed," answered the president. "You will notice," said the spokesman, "that nowhere in the ordinance is there anything said about the age of the children."

The president looked the ordinance over with diligence and admitted such to be the case.

"But the law does not consider you children," said the president. "But the law does, your excellency," replied the student spokesman.

The president called City Attorney Rine into consultation to ask him what the law said regarding children. Rine could not find child defined in the Omaha ordinances. He admitted that a definition might be found in the ordinances, but the ordinances are so voluminous, he admitted he had not read them all. "You see," said the student chief, "that we are wholly within our rights. Come let us consult the dictionary if there is any doubt about our right to ride on a half fare ticket."

The dictionary was read carefully and when Rine was through he said he had no opinion to offer. Then the students were called to the office of the superintendent of the street railways.

"I don't mind a joke," said the superintendent in a conciliatory

manner. The line of demarcation has been fixed by law at 21 years old in this country, but the ancient Hebrews considered a boy was not a man until he was 30 years old. In war every boy big enough to carry a gun is a man.

With the backing of Gen. Leonard Wood, Col. Theodore Roosevelt and other men high in military and political circles, work has been started on the most ambitious reserve organization ever attempted in this country. With arms enough to equip 100,000 the Young Guard will, within the next two months, take up the work of training every youth in the United States in the use of the rifle and other rudiments of military art.

For over a year the directors of the Young Guard have quietly been perfecting their organization, and they have won the unlimited support of the authorities of the National and State forces. While Europe is laboring under the trisome system of compulsory service for adults, the United States will seek the solution of the defense problem from the other end. By teaching every boy to shoot straight and to conduct himself properly in field and camp, those who are behind the new movement hope to do away with the fear of an immense standing army and substitute a more democratic method of defense for that which is now in vogue.

Although the plans of the new organization are so ambitious that they surpass any previous scheme for a national reserve, the preliminary work has been carried on so quietly that the general public has

been in complete ignorance of its existence. In fact, it was not until the papers of incorporation were filed in New York that a line crept into print.

The incorporators are Brigadier-General Ardolph Kline, a militia officer of long experience and former Mayor of New York City; Maj. Ellis J. Physic, formerly of the Rough Riders and an ex-regular officer, and Commander Josephthal, naval aid to Governor Glynn of New York State.

But this list does not include the many officers of the army and the national guard, nor the instructors and professors in colleges and preparatory schools who have offered their support. President Werner of the College of the City of New York, has offered the use of the gymnasium for the regiment to be made up of students at that institution. Prof. Henry C. Emory of Yale has written to the directors that he will do all in his power to aid the Young Guard. "I have every sympathy for the Young Guard and deplore the general ignorance of our problems of defense. I wish heartily that the plans of the General Staff shall be given the careful attention of every citizen."

**80 PER CENT OF SOLDIERS ARE BOYS.**

"Eighty per cent of the soldiers in all our wars have been mere boys. This in itself is the strongest argument for the Young Guard. If our boys must fight our battles, then we must train them to do so efficiently.

The importance of boys was



boys strong and the strong boys great.

"Since the Young Guard won the support of the regular army and the State governments, the idea has spread with surprising rapidity. We have had applications from persons of all ages, from youngsters of 14 to men of 30. When we started preliminary work at Columbia University, one student, who was 35, insisted that we allow him to enroll. Such men will be useful as instructors as soon as they themselves are proficient. In the high schools and in the grammar schools the idea takes hold even more rapidly than among the college students.

"Plans are being made for at least one camp next summer, and we expect to establish them in other parts of the country before that time. There will be a slight charge for rations, which will be about the same as that of the student camps, but those boys who have the best records will be sent to camp for about ten days free of charge. To give a boy a splendid free vacation in the open is more practical than pinning a medal on him.

"Commander Josephthal is working on a plan for a naval division of the Young Guard, not only for the waters of the Atlantic Coast, but for the Great Lakes as well. This will be done in co-operation with the officers of the naval militia of the various States."

**How Submarines Escaped.**

Just how two new submarines were quickly taken out of United States waters and made a part of the British fleet is a story going

tween Germany and Russia and August 5 Great Britain and Germany declared war. On the morning of August 5 the British agent at Victoria closed the deal to take the two submarines and arranged for the payment of the money which was satisfactory to the owners of the boats.

At 6 o'clock in the afternoon of August 5, the crews and stores were placed on board the submarines and the little vessels were started from the wharf where they had been moored. At that time there was a reception in progress on board the Milwaukee, which was still anchored off the builders' yard.

The submarines quickly settled below the surface and started up Puget Sound toward Victoria.

The Milwaukee got word of the flight and a search was started. The cruiser had her fires banked and it took some time to get up steam. Meanwhile tugs were sent out from the navy yard at Bremerton to find and bring back the submarines. But they got safely away and at 5 o'clock the next morning were in the British navy yard at Victoria. At noon that day President Wilson issued his proclamation of neutrality, but the boats were safely out of the country.

**Fined for Failure to Enlist.**

Several men, who had failed to join the colors, have been sentenced by court-martial in Paris to terms of imprisonment varying from two to five years. An engineer, accused of writing an insolent letter to a General concerning the treatment of the wounded, was fined \$100.